



FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION

Kansas Division
3300 S.W. Topeka Blvd., Suite 1
Topeka, KS 66611-2237
(785) 267-7281 fax (785) 267-7290



EI-35
KB

February 21, 2003

Finney County, KS
Holcomb Station Build-out
near Garden City

Mr. Barry Butterfield
HDR Engineering, Inc.
8404 Indian Hills Drive
Omaha, NE 68114-4098

Dear Mr. Butterfield:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide our views on the proposed project by Sunflower Rail Company near Garden City, Kansas. Based on the information provided, we have two observations to offer. First, it appears that the project will provide greater long-term assurances that the proposed rail line will remain a viable transportation corridor. This would provide a long-term benefit for the highway systems in the area by maintaining and possibly enhancing traditional uses for the rail transportation of agricultural products. Secondly, we recommend consideration be given to the abandonment of the existing section of GCW line from the GCW rail yard adjacent to the BNSF north to GCW MP 153.0 at Garden City since the proposed action would provide a redundant link for this section of line. Elimination of this existing section would mitigate the safety concerns of maintaining additional crossings.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact David LaRoche, Transportation Engineer, at (785) 267-7299, extension 327 or email david.laroche@fhwa.dot.gov.

Sincerely yours,

Kurt C. Dunn
Engineering Services
Team Leader